UNITED NATIONS

A

General Assembly

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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

NEW CALEDONIA

Working paper prepared by the Secretariat

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I. GENERAL

1. New Caledonia is located in the Pacific Ocean, about 1,500 kilometres east of Australia and 1,700 kilometres north of New Zealand. It comprises one large island, known as Grande Terre, and several smaller islands. To the east of Grande Terre are the Loyalty Islands (Ouvéa, Maré, Lifou and Tiga); to the north, the Bélep Archipelago; and to the south, the Isle of Pines and Huon Island. There are also several uninhabited islands to the north of the Loyalty Islands. The area of Grande Terre is 16,750 square kilometres and that of all the islands combined, 19,103 square kilometres. Nouméa, the capital, is located in the south of Grande Terre.

2. According to the 1989 census, the population was 164,173, comprising 73,598 indigenous Melanesians known as Kanaks (44.8 per cent); 55,085 persons of European origin, mainly French (33.6 per cent), of whom 35,000 persons, known as Caldoches, are descendants of the early settlers; 18,936 Wallisians and Tahitians (11.5 per cent); and 16,554 others, mainly Indonesians and Vietnamese (10.1 per cent).

3. Under the Matignon Agreement of 1988, the Territory is divided into three provinces, the South and the North (on Grande Terre) and the Loyalty Islands. Each province has an elected Assembly, which is responsible for local economic development, land reform and cultural affairs. Together, the members of the assemblies constitute the Territorial Congress, which is responsible for the territorial budget and fiscal affairs, infrastructure and primary education. The presidents of the assemblies, along with the President of the Territorial Congress and the French High Commissioner, currently Mr. Alain Christnacht, form the territorial executive. Local government is conducted by 32 municipalities. 1/

4. To safeguard Kanak tradition, there are also eight customary regions, each with its own Consultative Customary Council, as well as a Territory-wide Customary Council.

5. In the French National Assembly, New Caledonia is represented by two popularly elected deputies as well as by one Senator and one Councillor for Economic and Social Affairs. The Territory is represented in the European Parliament. 2/

6. There are two principal political groupings and numerous small parties. The two main groupings are the Rassemblement pour la Calédonie dans la République (RPCR), which favours retaining a relationship with France, and the Front de libération nationale kanake socialiste (FLNKS), a coalition of parties that favour independence from France. The constituents of FLNKS include the Parti de libération kanak (PALIKA), the Parti socialiste calédonien (PSC), the Union calédonienne (UC) and the Union progressiste mélanésienne. 3/

7. Elections were held in 1988. The RPCR controls the Provincial Assembly of the South and, by virtue of its representation in the other two assemblies, half of the 54 seats in the Territorial Congress. RPCR members represent New Caledonia in the French National Assembly and Senate. FLNKS controls the provincial assemblies in the North and in the Loyalty Islands and has 19 seats in the Territorial Congress.

8. The Matignon Agreement (see A/AC.109/1000, paras. 9-14) provides for a self-determination referendum to be held in 1998, following a 10-year period of development during which efforts would be concentrated on effecting more equitable economic distribution among the three provinces and providing education and training that would enable Kanaks to participate equally in the economy and Government of the Territory.

II. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

Meeting of the Committee to Monitor the Matignon Agreement

9. The Committee to Monitor the Matignon Agreement met for the third time on 17 and 18 October 1991, in Paris. The French delegation was headed by Mr. Louis Le Pensec, Minister for Overseas Departments and Territories. FLNKS was represented by an 11-member delegation headed by Mr. Paul Neaoutyine, its President, who is also President of PALIKA, and Mr. François Burck, President of UC. 4/ The 14-member RPCR delegation was led by the party president, Mr. Jacques Lafleur. At the invitation of the French Government, two Kanak leaders who were not signatories to the Agreement, Mr. Nidoish Naisseline of the Libération kanake socialiste (LKS), which is based in the Loyalty Islands, and Mr. Louis Kotra Uregei, Secretary-General of the Union des syndicats des travailleurs kanakes exploités (USTKE), a major labour union, also attended. 5/

10. As at the previous meetings, participants concentrated on developments in the social and economic spheres. Participants agreed with Mr. Le Pensec that, overall, progress was being made but stressed the need for France to make more strenuous efforts to bring about more equitable economic distribution among the three provinces and to provide education and training that would enable Kanaks to participate on an equal footing in the economy and Government of the Territory. 5/

11. In his opening statement, Mr. Le Pensec said that developments over the past three years had vindicated the population of New Caledonia and their elected representatives. Each of the provinces now had its own identity, its own institutions and its own network of services and was becoming deeply involved in the task of promoting economic development and employment. Indeed, since the institutional framework was in place, for the rest of the 10-year period of the Agreement, priorities would be education and training; redistribution of land and economic wealth; social welfare and public housing, both in Nouméa and the interior; and preservation of Kanak culture. The importance the State attached to the latter was demonstrated by the fact that the planned construction of the Jean-Marie Tjibaou Cultural Centre (at an

estimated cost of 320 million French francs) would be under the personal direction of the Chief of State. Other important areas were regional cooperation and relations with the European Community.

12. In an earlier statement, Mr. Le Pensec had stated that the Matignon Agreement had transformed New Caledonia's relationships with other States in the region in a positive way. New Caledonia had become a partner whose views were sought. Leaders from all groups in the Territory that had signed the Matignon Agreement had visited Australia, Fiji, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu, while leaders from neighbouring States had paid reciprocal visits to the Territory. Mr. Le Pensec supported New Caledonia's desire to be directly associated with France's initiatives in the South Pacific, as shown by the decision of the Territorial Assembly to lend 1.6 million francs to Vanuatu.

13. In her statement of 18 October 1991 to the Committee to Monitor the Matignon Agreement, Prime Minister Edith Cresson surveyed developments in the Territory over the past three years and stressed that the focus in the future would be on economic and social development. The Government's main concern was to assure that no one felt left out and that all shared in the benefits of development.

14. As regards political developments during the year, it was noted in the final document of the 3rd meeting of the Committee to Monitor the Matignon Agreement that the review of electoral rolls and preparation of lists of individuals eligible to vote in the 1998 referendum was continuing with the assistance of teams of magistrates from France. Further teams would visit the Territory in 1994 and 1997 to complete the exercise.

15. It was also noted that the institutional framework had been completed with the establishment of the Economic and Social Committee and the Consultative Committee on Credit. The process of nominating members to the Consultative Customary Council was under way.

III. ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

A. General

16. The basis of New Caledonia's economy is the mining, processing and export of nickel. The mining sector and most land suitable for commercial agriculture were for many years controlled by inhabitants of European origin, while the majority of Kanaks were dependent on subsistence agriculture.

17. To bring Kanaks into the economic mainstream and to ensure a more balanced development of all regions of the Territory, the Matignon Agreement called for the decentralization and regionalization of economic activities, as well as for the launching of regional development programmes tailored to meet the specific needs of each province. Thus, a large proportion of government development funds are currently being channelled to the Northern Province and

to the Loyalty Islands Province, which have Kanak majorities, rather than to the Southern Province where most profit-making economic activities were concentrated.

18. In May 1991, Mr. Le Pensec said that, thanks to various projects which were under way, an economic fabric was emerging in the north and in the Loyalty Islands. With the assistance of the Caledonian Institute for Participation (ICAP), more than 60 projects had been financed in the hotel sector, commerce, small-scale manufacturing, mining, agriculture and industry; other projects in the planning stage included fish processing and the cultivation of aromatic plants and fruit trees.

19. In her statement at the 3rd meeting of the Committee to Monitor the Matignon Agreement, Prime Minister Cresson noted that a first series of contracts for development that had been signed with the State for 1990-1992 was under way, at a total cost of 900 million French francs. Projects included roads, schools, colleges, administrative buildings, medical centres, housing, hotels, electrification, telephone lines and water-distribution systems. A second series of contracts for the period 1993-1997 would be signed at the end of 1992.

B. Trade

20. In 1991, New Caledonia exported 3.268 million tons of goods valued at 45,917 million Communauté financière du Pacifique francs (CFPF). 6/ While the volume of exports was 37 per cent more than in 1990 (2.105 million tons), the value of exports decreased from CFPF 47,000 million to CFPF 46,000 million, mainly due to a steady fall in the world price of nickel. As a result, the already negative balance of trade of the Territory continued to deteriorate during the period, from -CFPF 39,767 million in 1990 to -CFPF 42,881 million in 1991.

21. In 1991, total imports amounted to CFPF 88,798 million, an increase of 2.2 per cent in value as compared to 1990 (CFPF 86,929 million). The Territory's main imports are machines and electrical equipment, transport materials and food products.

22. New Caledonia's main trading partners are France and the other countries of the European Community, followed by Australia, Japan and the United States of America.

Table 1. Balance of trade

(Millions of CFP francs)

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991
Imports	59 382	63 353	65 395	88 608	86 929	88 798
Exports	23 573	20 653	50 814	77 900	47 031	45 917
Negative trade balance:	-35 809	-42 700	-14 581	-10 708	-39 898	-42 881

Source: Institut territorial de la statistique et des études économiques, Bulletin de Conjoncture, No. 32, fourth quarter 1990, pp. 10.5 and 10.6; and ibid., No. 36, fourth quarter 1991, pp. 10.3 and 10.4.

C. Public finance

23. In 1989, ordinary revenue amounted to approximately CFPF 50 billion and ordinary expenditure to CFPF 47.2 billion. Substantial subsidies from France supplemented local sources of revenue.

D. Agriculture, land tenure and livestock

24. Agriculture plays a relatively minor role in the economy of the Territory, although an estimated 34 per cent of the population, primarily Kanaks, depends on it. The domestic production of maize, wheat, rice, sorghum, yams, fruits and vegetables is usually insufficient to meet the needs of the population, and each year the Territory imports sizeable quantities of cereals and other food products.

25. Land devoted to livestock, mainly on the west coast, amounts to 13 per cent of the total area of Grande Terre. Most of the cattle ranching is controlled by the population of European origin. There are some 120,000 head of cattle. Pigs, goats, sheep and poultry are raised on small farms.

26. Three fourths of the total land area is covered with natural vegetation. Forests are spread over 374,000 hectares, of which only 11 per cent, mostly concentrated in the centre of Grande Terre, is considered suitable for commercial exploitation. A reafforestation programme was reactivated in 1987.

27. The Territory's rural and land development agency, Agence de développement rural et d'aménagement foncier (ADRAF), formed subsequent to the Matignon Agreement to meet the objectives of rural development and, to enhance the role of the Melanesian community, has been involved in a number of land

redistribution projects. According to Mr. Le Pensec, from 1988 to 1991 ADRAF redistributed 62,500 hectares of land, of which 75 per cent went to Kanaks. ADRAF also acquired an additional 11,000 hectares.

E. Fisheries

28. Despite its economic potential, ocean fishing has been of relatively little economic significance for the Territory. However, since 1987 the total annual production of tuna and related species, nearly all exported to Japan, has increased substantially. In 1991, about 2,100 tons of fish valued at CFPF 520 million were exported, although earnings were poor because of low world prices.

29. Over the past few years agreements have been reached with Japanese and United States companies permitting them to fish in the Territory's exclusive economic zone. These ventures have not proved profitable. Japanese boats expected to land only 30 per cent of their allotted 2,225-ton annual quota in 1991, while of the 25 United States ships authorized to fish in the Territory's waters only two actually requested licences and neither of them was reported to have undertaken operations.

30. Aquaculture, especially the raising of shrimp, is beginning to outperform ocean fishing proportionately, with export earnings in 1991 of CFPF 445 million, mostly from sales to Australia.

F. Mining

31. New Caledonia has 28 per cent of the world's deposits of oxidized nickel ore and is the third largest producer of nickel in the world after Canada and the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Its known and estimated reserves of nickel are believed to amount to 50 million tons. In addition, the Territory has deposits of chromium, cobalt, iron, manganese, lead and zinc. With the exception of chromium, whose production in 1990 amounted to 2,777 tons, no systematic exploration of these minerals has been undertaken in recent years.

32. Nickel mining is controlled by France, which has declared nickel to be a strategic mineral. Currently, nickel is mined at several sites along the east and west coasts by the State-controlled Société métallurgique Le Nickel (SLN), as well as by a small number of independent mining companies. The production of nickel ore increased from 41,961 tons in 1990 to 43,452 tons in 1991. Exports amounted to 41,300 tons. The main destinations of nickel exports are Japan and Australia.

33. In April 1990, after a year of negotiations, a regional council of FLNKS bought for US$ 319 million the 85 per cent share of Mr. Lafleur of RPCR in the largest private nickel mine of the Société minière du Pacifique sud, located in the Northern Province of the Territory. The French Government was reported

to have given its assent beforehand to the transaction, which was considered to be a major contribution to the achievement of the objectives enshrined in the Matignon Agreement.

34. Mr. Dominique Strauss-Kahn, Minister-delegate for industry and foreign trade, has been appointed to supervise the sector and to undertake discussions with representatives of the Territory to define common goals for the exploitation of nickel.

G. Transport and communications

35. New Caledonia has one of the best air and road networks in the South Pacific. The international airport located at Tantouta, 53 kilometres from Nouméa, is served by a number of overseas airlines and by Air Calédonie, the local airline. There are regular air links to the Loyalty Islands, to the Isle of Pines and to the Bélep Islands and the Northern Province.

36. Coastal roads circle Grand Terre and several roads cross the interior. Major construction and improvement projects are under way. One of the most significant of these is the construction of a road in the Northern Province linking the east and west coasts.

37. Most goods are shipped through the port of Nouméa, although mineral exports are loaded directly at the mining centres. There is a regular cargo route from Australia and New Zealand and several shipping companies operate services between the Territory and the Far East, the United States and Europe. In addition, over 30 small coastal vessels are engaged in a variety of commercial activities within the Territory. Since 1988, improvements have been made to facilities on the Loyalty Islands.

H. Tourism

38. Tourism is the second most important sector of the economy after nickel mining. To revitalize the sector, which suffered significantly during the turmoil of the 1980s, the French Government has subsidized hotels which would otherwise have had to close and has agreed to provide funds for a large-scale programme of improved tourist facilities. In addition, a major promotion and advertising campaign has been launched to attract visitors once again.

39. In the past few years there has been a steady improvement in tourist arrivals, with the number of visitors averaging 84,000 annually since 1989. The average length of stay in 1991 was 4.5 nights, and hotels operated at about 60 per cent of capacity. Heretofore, most tourism has been confined to the south of Grande Terre. The other provinces are currently trying to encourage the construction of hotels.

40. Thirty-eight cruise ships visited New Caledonia in 1991 and 36,997 passengers disembarked.

Table 2. Number of tourists, 1989-1991

	1989	1990	1991
Japanese	27 358	28 781	25 675
French	21 054	22 638	23 807
Australians	13 974	14 066	14 167
New Zealanders	7 411	9 378	8 908
Others	12 364	12 007	10 967
	82 161	86 870	83 524

Source: Institut territorial de la statistique et des études économiques, Bulletin de Conjoncture, No. 32, fourth quarter 1990, p. 4.5; and ibid., No. 36, fourth quarter 1991, p. 4.4.

IV. SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL CONDITIONS

A. Labour

41. Labour relations in New Caledonia are governed by the Code du Travail of 1982, as modified in 1986, which applies to all French Overseas Territories. There is a guaranteed minimum wage and there are a number of labour unions, including USTKE and the Union des syndicats ouvriers et employés de Nouvelle-Calédonie (USOENC).

42. According to the Bulletin de Conjoncture of 1991, unemployment has grown. In 1991, unemployment averaged about 6,250 persons a month, 9.3 per cent more than the previous year and 39.8 per cent more than 1987. Of the total unemployed, 63.3 per cent were in the Southern Province, 31 per cent in the Northern Province and 5.7 per cent in the Loyalty Islands. Over 40 per cent of the unemployed were between the ages of 16 and 25.

43. According to a statement by Mr. Le Pensec on 26 May 1991, over the preceding three and a half years the number of salaried employees in the Territory had increased by more than 25 per cent and by some 75 per cent in the Northern Province and the Loyalty Islands.

44. FLNKS has charged that Kanaks remain underrepresented in public-sector employment. In a note to the French Government in December 1991, FLNKS said that of a total of 231 public officials in certain catogories, only 42 were Kanaks.

B. Public health

45. In 1986, the latest year for which figures are available, there were 226 medical practitioners, 22 dentists and 18 pharmacists in public service in the Territory. During that year, the ratio was one doctor to 460 inhabitants in Nouméa and one to 2,097 outside the capital. In 1988, medical personnel in private practice comprised 99 doctors, 28 dentists and 29 pharmacists. Most of them were based in and around Nouméa.

C. Educational conditions

46. Education in New Caledonia is free and compulsory for children between 6 and 14 years of age and is offered in the French language. Primary education is within the competence of territorial authorities, while secondary education conforms to French standards.

47. Until recently, facilities for secondary education were concentrated in the south and few Kanaks continued beyond the primary level. In 1987, for instance, Kanaks accounted for 56.5 per cent of the primary school population, but only 40 per cent of secondary school students.

48. Information indicates that since 1988 progress has been made in respect of increasing the educational opportunities for Kanaks throughout the Territory. According to data provided by the former Minister of National Education, Mr. Lionel Jospin, whereas in 1987 and 1988 together only 55 posts were created in secondary education, there were 62 new posts in 1989, 54 in 1990 and 67 in 1991. Furthermore, whereas in 1987 there was no programme of supervised study, in 1991 1,700 hours of supervised study were provided. Mr. Jospin also reported that whereas in 1988, of 205 candidates who took the qualifying examination for teaching in primary schools (certificat d'aptitude professionnelle) only 53 passed, in 1991, out of 300 candidates, 220 succeeded. As further evidence of progress, he said that the proportion of students who passed the brevet des collèges had increased from 66 per cent in 1988 to 77.5 per cent in 1990, while the total number of brevets earned, had increased from 1,792 to 2,183. In two years, the increase in the number of brevets awarded has been 51.3 per cent in the Loyalty Islands and 146.5 per cent in the North. The number of Melanesians who earned the baccalauréat was 19 in 1981, while in 1990 it was 99.

49. The construction of three new high schools in the Northern Province is planned; a vocational school at Touho is scheduled to open at the beginning of the 1993 academic year and ground is being broken for a comprehensive high school at Poindimie which is scheduled to be completed in 1994.

Notes

1/ The Europa World Year Book 1992, vol. I, p. 1147.

2/ Ibid., p. 1146.

3/ Ibid., p. 1148.

4/ Le Monde (Paris), 14 December 1990.

5/ La Croix l'Evénement, 12 December 1990.

6/ The local currency of the Territory is the CFP (Communauté financière du Pacifique) franc. One hundred CFP francs equals 5.5 French francs.

UNITED
NATIONS

A

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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION
WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING
OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL
COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES TRANSMITTED UNDER ARTICLE 73 e OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Report of the Secretary-General

Transmission of information under Article 73 e of the Charter

1. The previous report of the Secretary-General on the subject (A/AC.109/1080 and Add.1) listed the dates on which information had been transmitted to the Secretary-General under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations up to 29 July 1991. The annex to the present report shows the dates on which such information was transmitted in respect of the years 1990 and 1991 up to 15 July 1992.

2. The information transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter follows in general the standard form approved by the General Assembly and includes information on geography, history, population, economic, social and educational conditions. In the case of Territories under the administration of New Zealand, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, the annual reports on the Territories also include information on constitutional matters. Additional information on political and constitutional developments in the Territories under its administration is given by the representative of New Zealand during meetings of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. Supplementary information is also made available by New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States concerning Territories under their administration.

Study of information transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter

3. In compliance with the provisions of paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 1970 (XVIII) of 16 December 1963 and other relevant resolutions of the Assembly, including in particular resolution 46/63 of 11 December 1991, the Secretariat has continued to use the information transmitted in the preparation of working papers on each Territory for the Special Committee.

Annex

DATES OF TRANSMISSION OF INFORMATION UNDER ARTICLE 73 e OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND PERIOD COVERED a/

	Information received in 1991		Information received in 1992	
	Date of receipt	Period covered	Date of receipt	Period covered
FRANCE				
New Caledonia b/	--	--	--	--
NEW ZEALAND (1 July-30 June) c/				
Tokelau	29 July 1991	1989/90	11 June 1992	1990/91
PORTUGAL				
East Timor d/	--	--	--	--
SPAIN				
Western Sahara e/	--	--	--	--
UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND				
Anguilla	--	--	--	--
Bermuda	--	--	9 April 1992	1989/91
			22 June 1992	1990/92
British Virgin Islands	6 June 1991	1990	9 April 1992	1991
	31 July 1991	1991	--	--
	16 August 1991	1991	--	--
Cayman Islands	30 January 1991	1990	21 April 1992	1992
	14 June 1991	1990	--	--
	23 July 1991	1991	--	--
	30 December 1991	1990/91	--	--

	Information received in 1991		Information received in 1992	
	Date of receipt	Period covered	Date of receipt	Period covered
UNITED KINGDOM (continued)				
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	6 August 1991	1990/91	--	--
Gibraltar	24 June 1991	1989	7 April 1992	1990
Montserrat	10 October 1991 30 December 1991	1989/90 1989/90		
Pitcairn	31 July 1991	1990	--	--
St. Helena (including Tristan da Cunha)	13 June 1991 27 November 1991	1989/90 1990/91	4 March 1992 --	1990/91 --
Turks and Caicos Islands	--	--	--	--
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (1 October-30 September) f/				
American Samoa	8 April 1991	1989/90	7 April 1992	1990/91
Guam	8 April 1991	1989/90	7 April 1992	1990/91
United States Virgin Islands	8 April 1991	1989/90	7 April 1992	1990/91

(Footnotes on following page)

(Footnotes to table)

a/ For a preliminary list of territories to which the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960) applies, see Official Records of the General Assembly, Eighteenth Session, Annexes, addendum to agenda item 23 (A/5446/Rev.1), annex I.

b/ According to its resolution 41/41 A of 2 December 1986, the General Assembly "considers that, in the light of the provisions of Chapter XI of the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV), New Caledonia is a Non-Self-Governing Territory within the meaning of the Charter".

c/ Period extends from 1 July of the year listed to 30 June of the following year.

d/ In a note verbale dated 6 April 1979 (A/34/311), the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations informed the Secretary-General that the conditions still prevailing in East Timor prevented his Government from assuming its responsibilities for the administration of that Territory. He subsequently informed the Secretary-General (A/35/233, A/36/160, A/37/113, A/38/125, A/39/136, A/40/159, A/41/190, A/42/171, A/43/219 and A/44/262) that the Portuguese Government had nothing to add to the information already provided in that note. In a note verbale dated 19 March 1990 (A/45/172), the Permanent Representative said that since the Portuguese Government continued to be prevented "de facto" from exercising its responsibilities for the administration of East Timor due to the latter's illegal occupation by a third country, it remained unable to provide any information concerning the Territory. On 1 May 1992 (A/47/189), the Permanent Representative referred to the information contained in his note of 28 March 1991 (A/46/131) the terms of which, he stated, remained valid.

e/ On 26 February 1976, the Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations informed the Secretary-General that "the Spanish Government, as of today, definitely terminates its presence in the Territory of the Sahara and deems it necessary to place the following on record: ... (a) Spain considers itself henceforth exempt from any responsibility of an international nature in connection with the administration of the said Territory, in view of the cessation of its participation in the temporary administration established for the Territory ..." (A/31/56-S/11997). For the printed text, see Official Records of the Security Council, Thirty-first Year, Supplement for January, February and March 1976.

f/ Period extends from 1 October of the previous year to 30 September of the year listed.

UNITED NATIONS

A

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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

FALKLAND ISLANDS (MALVINAS)

Working paper prepared by the Secretariat

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FALKLAND ISLANDS (MALVINAS) 1/

I. LAND AND PEOPLE

1. The Falkland Islands (Malvinas), which is administered by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, comprises two large islands known as East and West Falkland, as well as some 200 smaller islands, and has a total area of about 12,173 square kilometres. The Territory is situated in the South Atlantic Ocean, about 770 kilometres north-east of Cape Horn and about 480 kilometres east of the South American mainland. South Georgia, located about 1,300 kilometres east-south-east of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) group, and the South Sandwich Islands, about 750 kilometres east-south-east of South Georgia, are administered from the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) as a matter of convenience; the Governor of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) acts as Commissioner for South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands.

2. According to the March 1991 census, the population of the Territory was 2,121, excluding military personnel and contract workers, but including some expatriate staff in permanent posts. Of the total, 1,643 lived in Stanley, the capital, and its environs and the remainder were scattered throughout the Territory. In 1980, according to the census of that year, of 1,813 permanent inhabitants, 1,360 had been born in the Territory and about 300 in the United Kingdom.

II. CONSTITUTION AND GOVERNMENT

3. The Constitution of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) came into effect on 18 April 1985. (For details, see the 1985 working paper prepared by the Secretariat (A/AC.109/835 and Corr.1, paras. 4-39).) It vests executive power in a Governor, assisted by an Executive Council consisting of the Chief Executive and Financial Secretary and three members nominated by the elected members of the Legislative Council. It provides that the Legislative Council should consist of eight elected members and the Chief Executive and Financial Secretary as ex officio members.

4. The election of the Legislative Council is regulated by the Constitution, together with the Electoral Ordinance adopted by the Council in 1988. By virtue of these instruments, the Territory is divided into two constituencies for electoral purposes: the Stanley Constituency, which comprises the capital and its environs, and the Camp Constituency, made up of the rest of the Territory. There are four elected members for each constituency and all persons who are Commonwealth citizens 18 years or older and who satisfy the residency requirements are allowed to vote. Elections must be held at intervals not longer than just over four years. The last general election took place in 1989.

III. CONSIDERATION BY THE UNITED NATIONS

A. Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

5. The Special Committee considered the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) at its 1381st, 1383rd, 1386th, 1387th and 1394th meetings, held between 1 and 14 August 1991.

6. Statements were made by the representatives of Cuba (A/AC.109/PV.1387) and Argentina (A/AC.109/PV.1394). The United Kingdom did not participate in the Committee's consideration of the item.

7. At its 1381st, 1383rd and 1386th meetings, the Special Committee granted requests for hearing of petitioners and, at its 1387th meeting, heard statements by four petitioners (A/AC.109/PV.1387).

8. At its 1394th meeting, on 14 August, which marked the conclusion of the consideration of the item, the Special Committee adopted, by 21 votes to none, with 3 abstentions, a draft resolution (A/AC.109/L.1767) introduced by Venezuela on behalf also of Chile and Cuba.

9. On 27 August, the text of the resolution (A/AC.109/1087) was transmitted to the Permanent Representatives of Argentina and of the United Kingdom to the United Nations for the attention of their Governments.

B. General Assembly

10. During the general debate at the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly, the representative of Argentina, in the course of his statement on 23 September (A/46/PV.5), made reference to the Falkland Islands (Malvinas). He said that proof of Argentina's willingness to cooperate and its commitment to international peace and security could be seen in its excellent and mutually beneficial relations with the United Kingdom under the umbrella of a formula agreed on by the two Governments that protected the inalienable sovereign rights of Argentina over the Malvinas, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands. He reiterated that his Government believed that the new climate should also facilitate - at the right time - the resumption of negotiations regarding sovereignty, as the General Assembly had repeatedly requested.

11. The United Kingdom did not refer to the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) during the general debate. The last formal statement of the United Kingdom Government on the question was reflected in the 1990 working paper (A/AC.109/1042, paras. 14-16).

12. On 13 November 1991, the General Assembly adopted, without a vote, decision 46/406, by which it decided to defer consideration of the agenda item

entitled "Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)" and to include it in the provisional agenda of its forty-seventh session.

IV. CONSIDERATION BY OTHER INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Organization of American States

13. At its twenty-second regular session, held in May 1992, the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) emphasized the excellent status achieved in bilateral relations between Argentina and the United Kingdom since the resumption of their diplomatic relations. It welcomed the will of Argentina to explore the possible peaceful avenues for the settlement of the controversy and, in particular, its positive considerations on the inhabitants of the Malvinas Islands. It recalled its resolution AG/RES. 928 (XVIII-O/88) requesting Argentina and the United Kingdom to resume negotiations in order to find, as soon as possible, a peaceful solution to the sovereignty dispute, and decided to continue to examine the question at future sessions of the General Assembly (see A/47/319).

V. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

Agreement on military manoeuvres 2/

14. On 25 September 1991, the United Kingdom and Argentina signed an agreement effective 9 October 1991 which revised the terms of the Madrid Agreement of February 1990 dealing with the Interim Reciprocal Information and Consultation System as they applied to military vessels.

15. Concerning military, aerial and naval exercises and manoeuvres, the Madrid Agreement of February established that reciprocal written information would be provided through diplomatic channels; for the Argentine forces, within rhumb lines joining geographical coordinates 46S 63W, 50S 63W, 50S 64W, 53S 64W, 53S 63W, 60S 63W, 60S 20W, 46S 20W, 46S 63W, and for the British forces, south of parallel 40S and west of meridian 20W and north of 60S. The new agreement reduces the area of application of these measures to 80 miles from all coasts; reduces the time requirement for information of military manoeuvres and exercises from 25 to 14 days and reduces the notification area for military manoeuvres to closer than 80 nautical miles to coasts.

16. Concerning aviation, the new text provides for an air traffic control zone for the Mount Pleasant Airport in the Territory in accordance with the rules and regulations of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). The new provisions state that flight plans are to be filed one hour prior to take-off for all aircraft entering or leaving.

17. Concerning naval combatant units, the Madrid Agreement established that reciprocal notification would be given in the case of any ship that intended to approach closer than 50 miles to coasts. Under the new agreement, that distance has been reduced to 15 miles.

18. The then Deputy Foreign Minister of Argentina, Juan Carlos Olima, was reported to have said that the revised bilateral declaration represented evidence of the political willingness of the two Governments to strengthen mutual confidence.

VI. ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

A. General 3/

19. The economy of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) had traditionally been based on the raising of sheep, grazed on ranches owned by a few absentee landlords with islanders largely employed as shepherds and labourers. The principal landholder and main employer was the Falkland Islands Corporation (FIC), a United Kingdom company founded in 1851, which owned almost half the land. Revenues being inadequate to cover budgetary expenses, the Territory was financially dependent on the administering Power, which nevertheless did not make large investments in infrastructural development. The way of life remained extremely simple and isolated. The only means of access to the Territory from the United Kingdom was by sea. After its conflict with Argentina in 1982, the administering Power allocated £3 million to the civilian sector, mainly for business development. A new military airport capable of accommodating wide-bodied commercial jets was also constructed.

20. In the late 1980s, the Territory experienced an unprecedented period of prosperity as a result of the discovery of vast schools of squid in its 200-mile exclusive economic zone. Primarily through the sale of fishing licences to foreign companies, mainly from Asia, revenues rose to £41 million in 1990/91 (£25 million from fisheries), which was adequate to enable the Territory to be financially self-sufficient. Furthermore, owing to the decision of FIC to sell off most of its landholdings for subdivision into small units, the number of privately owned farms and self-employed persons increased significantly. There was a major building programme which included the construction of a new hospital and school, the installation of a new telephone system and the building of an extensive road network.

21. After only two years, however, the situation altered. Because of more stringent conservation measures imposed by the Government and competition from other fishing areas, licensing revenues began to fall. Also, due to changes in the international scene, earnings from wool sales declined by half. The decision of FIC to sell off its four remaining ranches created significant unemployment. To create new sources of employment, attempts are being made at diversification: according to reports, FIC and the Falkland Islands Development Corporation (FIDC) bought a herd of 65 cashmere goats on a trial basis, and efforts are being made to forge links with retail outlets in the United Kingdom for the marketing of sweaters. Another option reportedly being considered is broadening of the Territory's direct involvement in the fishing sector through the development of onshore facilities and joint ventures. Currently, support facilities are based in Punta Arenas, Chile.

22. There is a possibility that offshore oil reserves will prove to be significant.

B. Agriculture, land tenure and livestock

23. According to reports in the press, 3/ as a result of the subdivision of FIC holdings and the slump in the wool market, the traditional farming communities have begun to disintegrate. Although there are more privately owned farms than before, fewer than 500 people were reported to live on farms in 1991. To help them weather the crisis, farmers are relying on government wool subsidies and mortgage relief, for which purpose up to £2 million was set aside in 1991. None the less, it is reported that many former farm workers, including shepherds and others, are unemployed or are barely getting by, doing road building, and that some farms might go out of business despite subsidies.

C. Fisheries

24. The Territory's revenues derive mainly from the sale of licences to foreign trawlers fishing for squid, a species which is highly migratory and may desert the area at any time.

25. Following meetings with Argentina, a joint statement was agreed upon on 28 November 1990, aimed at enhancing fisheries conservation in the South Atlantic. A South Atlantic Fisheries Commission was established to discuss conservation over the whole area and to meet twice a year, alternately at Buenos Aires and London. It was also agreed that all fishing would be banned in an area outside the Falkland Inner Conservation and Management Zone (FICZ) but within 200 miles of the Islands (except in the west). This area was designated the Falklands Outer Conservation and Management Zone (FOCZ). Fishing within FICZ continues to be administered by the Falkland Islands Government, which pays strict attention to conservation requirements in issuing licences. Patrolling in FOCZ is the responsibility of the Government, although the Government of Argentina may exercise flag State jurisdiction over its own vessels.

26. In early December 1991, the South Atlantic Fisheries Commission met in London. According to a communiqué 4/ issued in London and Buenos Aires following the meeting, the Commission considered the "relevant fishing laws that have been approved or that will be approved soon, as well as the conservation measures adopted by the two countries; the effectiveness of the total prohibition temporarily imposed by the two Governments on all commercial fishing vessels of any country (between latitudes 45 degrees and 60 degrees); and ways to develop cooperation to prevent illegal fishing in the South Atlantic". According to the communiqué, the representatives agreed to include "the formula regarding sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas agreed upon by the Argentine and United Kingdom Governments in point two of the joint

declaration issued in Madrid on 19 October 1989, and included in point 1 of the Joint Statement on Conservation of Fisheries of 28 November 1990".

27. In May 1992, the Commission met at Buenos Aires in a cordial atmosphere to discuss all aspects of monitoring the ban in FOCZ and agreed on future exchanges of information on technical issues and on enforcement of the ban (which has been extended to December 1992).

28. The two delegations again agreed that they applied to this meeting and its consequences "the formula regarding sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), South Georgia, and South Sandwich Islands agreed upon by the Argentine and United Kingdom Governments in point two of the joint declaration issued in Madrid on 19 October 1989".

D. Industry

29. The Falkland Islands Development Corporation (FIDC) was established in 1984 to advise the territorial Government on matters pertaining to economic development. The Corporation is an agency for local allocation of development loans and grants to new enterprises. It also takes up shares in, and sometimes wholly owns, development enterprises and services with the aim of increasing self-sufficiency and exports of processed and manufactured products.

30. FIDC took the initiative in 1991/92 to set up two important bodies: the Falkland Islands Textile Association for those involved in the processing of Falklands wool, and the Energy Advisory Committee to make proposals on the development of renewable energy.

31. With assistance from FIDC, a number of small businesses have been established. Currently, some 62 small businesses receive support from FIDC. These include a taxi service, a bus service, an electronics repair service, a mechanical repair shop, a number of restaurants, bars and retail outlets, a metal-working business, a driving school and a laundry. Other projects assisted by FIDC are a poultry farm and a market garden, which produce sufficient eggs and vegetables to supply the local community and the military. Two dairies have also been set up, as well as two bakeries and a butchery.

E. Tourism

32. The Territory's main attraction for tourists is its wildlife, including seals, penguins and albatrosses. Tourists from Europe and North America, however, are discouraged by the high cost of air fare. Also, there is a shortage of up-to-date tourist facilities. Although the administering Power invests around £250,000 in tourist promotion and related activities in London and Stanley, in 1990 there were less than 200 tourists, 50 per cent short of the projected figure. Tourist lodges, two of which were opened recently, are asking the Government for subsidies to remain in business. One article

expressed the hope that the Government would make the necessary commitment because, for the time being, tourism was the only potentially reliable means of income for the Territory and could provide an immediate step towards self-sufficiency. It was hoped that new roads and the air connections to South America will boost tourism. 5/

F. Oil 6/

33. As yet unknown quantities of oil are believed to lie in the continental shelf around the Territory.

34. On 22 November 1991, the United Kingdom and Argentina made simultaneous announcements regarding continental shelf legislation. The United Kingdom issued a proclamation providing for the exercise of its rights over the seabed and subsoil of the continental shelf around the Falklands; an ordinance permitting seismic surveying was also passed. Argentina claimed sovereignty over the Falkland Islands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands maritime spaces and continental shelf.

35. On 9 December 1991, following a meeting in London, it was announced that Argentina and the United Kingdom had agreed to form a High Level Group for the purpose of exploring the implications of their respective legislative measures of 22 November and the scope for cooperation on any activities deriving therefrom. It was indicated that the meeting had been held under the sovereignty umbrella contained in the Madrid Declaration of 1989.

36. The High Level Group met at Buenos Aires on 26 and 27 February 1992 and in London, on 13 and 14 July 1992. According to the parties, both meetings were held in a cordial atmosphere and contributed significantly to the clarification of the respective viewpoints of the two countries. Both sides agreed to exchange further ideas and said that a further meeting of the Group would be held at an appropriate time.

37. On 10 July 1992, it was reported in the Penguin News, the Territory's local newspaper, that if clearance were obtained from the United Kingdom, a £7 million seismic survey operation study would begin in October 1992. The study would be undertaken by two companies, a United Kingdom company called Spectrum, and GECO, a United Kingdom subsidiary of the Schlumberger Group of France, both of which would share the area to be surveyed, which covers the entire continental shelf. The Territory would receive a free copy of the findings of the survey and have a direct say concerning which companies should be allowed to buy them. The Government would also receive royalties from such sales. It would probably take at least five years, however, before the first test rig appeared and another five years before oil could possibly be exploited commercially.

G. Energy

38. A power station has been installed at the Fox Bay East settlement. Throughout the rest of the Territory, other than Port Stanley, power is derived from small-engined generators.

39. During 1990, by the installation of new equipment, the power station's maximum output was 4.7 megawatts. A 10-kilowatt wind generator was placed on Pebble Island in 1987. Interest in solar energy is reportedly growing.

H. Transport and communications

40. There are 110 kilometres of roads in the Territory outside Stanley, of which approximately 20 per cent are surfaced in bitumen, asphalt or concrete. The remainder are all-weather roads of crushed stone surface. There are no railways in the Territory.

41. It will be recalled that the Government of the Territory operates an internal air service using three twin-engined Islander aircraft. The main airport, located at Mount Pleasant, about 30 kilometres from Stanley, has a runway of 2,590 metres and is capable of receiving wide-bodied jet aircraft. There are flights to and from the United Kingdom twice a week and, since May 1990, a small Chilean airline, Aerovías DAP, has provided regular fortnightly service between Punta Arenas in southern Chile and the Falkland Islands (Malvinas). It was reported in September 1991 that an Uruguayan airline was also being granted permission to fly passengers and cargo to the Territory. 2/ Airmail is flown regularly via Ascension Island.

42. Inter-island sea transport is offered by two small cargo vessels, of 144 and 229 tons respectively, both operated by a local shipping company. There is a shipping service between the United Kingdom and the Territory, with cargo vessels arriving approximately every month.

43. There is a government-owned and operated telephone system at Stanley and an extensive radio-telephone network throughout the Territory. An international service, first established in 1968, has now been extended to a full 24-hours-a-day service. During 1990, Cable and Wireless continued the installation of a £5.4-million digital telecommunications network spanning the entire Territory. Its cost is shared by the Falkland Islands Government and Cable and Wireless, which also supplies the Territory's international service.

44. Radio broadcasts are provided by the Falkland Islands Broadcasting Station, a non-commercial radio operating 24 hours a day, financed jointly by the Government and by the British Forces Broadcasting Service, a division of the Services Sound and Vision Corporation (SSVC) of the United Kingdom. A television service also operated by SSVC is available in Stanley and some areas of East Falkland. It currently broadcasts for about five hours each day. During 1992, it is expected that this service will be extended to most parts of the Territory.

I. Banking

45. The only bank in the Territory is the Standard Chartered Bank of the United Kingdom, which opened a branch at Stanley in December 1983 and provides a full range of banking facilities. Both United Kingdom and local coinage are used, together with local currency notes of values £20, £10, £5 and £1.

J. Public finance

46. Ordinary revenue decreased from £42.1 million for the year ended June 1989 to an estimated £38.5 million in 1990. Major sources of revenue included fisheries and the issuance of fishing licences, personal and company tax, public works, customs and harbour receipts, post and telecommunications and aviation.

47. Corresponding information for 1990 expenditures is not available. In 1989, total expenditure amounted to £32.6 million as compared with £31.1 million in 1988. Of the 1989 expenditure, £18.1 million represented ordinary expenditure, £3.0 million was transferred to the development fund and £11.5 million was development expenditure to be met from the United Kingdom Fund.

48. Traditionally, the United Kingdom has been the most important trading partner of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas). In 1990, however, although the United Kingdom continued to be the largest source of the Territory's imports, over 90 per cent of the foreign exchange earnings came from other sources. The major sources of earnings were the sale of fishing licences and the export of wool.

49. The largest category of imports since 1988 has been capital goods, namely plant and machinery for the construction of industry, motor vehicles and central heating systems. Fuel oil and food remain the most important consumer imports. No import statistics have been maintained since 1986.

VII. SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL CONDITIONS

A. Labour and employment

50. Traditionally, there has been full employment in the Territory. During the period under review, however, as noted above, unemployment was reported owing to the decline in sheep farming.

51. There are established scales of wages for Stanley and for the Camp. As of 1 January 1991, hourly wages at Stanley were as follows: handymen, £3.24-£3.58; labourers, £3.17; skilled labourers, £3.24-£3.58 and £3.61-£3.94. A 40-hour week is customary.

52. In the Camp, minimum monthly wages for a 40-hour week for agricultural workers were between £300 and £400. In addition, a cost-of-living adjustment was paid to all Camp employees. Labourers and shepherds also received free quarters, fuel, meat and milk. Extra bonuses were paid for shearing, while labourers and shepherds were able to add to their earnings by engaging in contract work, such as fencing and peat cutting. Employees in the Camp are given 21 annual holiday days, including nine public holidays.

53. There are a number of overseas personnel working under contract, including St. Helenian workers who are often employed on short-term contracts to fill essential vacancies.

54. Various government departments and certain other employers at Stanley have apprenticeship schemes for training the limited number of craftsmen required.

B. Housing

55. The majority of the houses in Stanley are privately owned. The Government owns a number of houses which are rented to government employees and other residents of Stanley.

56. In the period under review, the administering Power reported that housing development undertaken by the Government and other sponsors was complete. The territorial Government, having completed a programme of "general needs" housing construction, was concentrating resources on the provision of single-person housing and serviced plots for self-builders and local companies. There was reported to be increasing involvement in construction by the private sector.

C. Public health

57. Medical and dental treatment and drugs are free to the residents of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas). All employed persons are required to pay a medical service levy of 1 per cent of their salary and employers, 1.5 per cent of the salary paid. Self-employed persons contribute 1.5 per cent of their net income for medical services.

58. There is no private system of medical care. The Falkland Islands Government Medical Department employs 6 registered medical practitioners, 10 registered nurses, 6 midwives, 8 untrained nursing auxiliaries, 3 laboratory and X-ray technicians, 1 dental surgeon, 1 pharmacist and 1 physiotherapist.

59. There is a joint civilian/military hospital, the King Edward Memorial Hospital, which was opened in 1987. Built at a cost of approximately £13 million, this hospital is equipped with 28 beds, including 2 for intensive care and 2 for maternity units. Facilities include an operating theatre suite, a pathology laboratory, an X-ray department and a casualty

resuscitation department. The hospital civilian medical service provides primary care to the population of the Territory, to some military personnel and to the crews of the fishing fleets operating around the Falkland Islands (Malvinas). It also provides airborne medical service to outlying farm settlements. Cases requiring specialist facilities are transferred to the United Kingdom via the Royal Air Force Medevac system.

60. In addition to its therapeutic function, the Medical Department of the Territory is also involved in a range of preventive medicine activities, including operating child health clinics, school medical services, immunization programmes, well-woman clinics and health education and family planning programmes.

61. The general state of health and nutrition of the population is reported to be good. The principal causes of death are cancer, heart disease and respiratory infections of the aged.

62. In 1990/91, estimated recurrent expenditure on all aspects of health care and public health was estimated at £1,576,610. Special expenditures amounted to an additional £66,500.

63. A system of social welfare grants and pensions is in operation to handle hardship and disability cases. One full-time and one part-time social welfare officer are employed by the Medical Department to coordinate all social welfare functions in the Territory. Currently, the infirm elderly are cared for in the hospital. A sheltered housing complex with accommodation for 15 persons is situated adjacent to the facility. Old-age pension schemes, both contributory and voluntary, are in existence. There is no provision for payment of disability pensions.

D. Educational conditions

64. Education is free throughout the Territory. Attendance is compulsory at Stanley for all children between the ages of 5 and 15. Outside Stanley, attendance is compulsory for all children 5 to 15 years old living within 1.6 kilometres of a settlement school and for children between 7 and 15 years living within 3.2 kilometres of a settlement school. According to the administering Power, there is virtually no illiteracy in the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).

65. In 1988, the latest year for which figures are available, school enrolment totalled 353 and there were 42 teachers, of whom 36 were formally qualified. There are seven schools: two at Stanley (a senior and a junior school), one at Goose Green, one at Fox Bay East and the remainder at three settlements in the Camp. Secondary education is available only at Stanley, where 137 senior and 158 junior students were enrolled in 1988. There is a government boarding hostel at Stanley, with accommodation for 85 older children attending senior school and the upper classes of the junior school.

A new secondary school is being built at Stanley, at a cost of approximately US$ 20 million. It is expected to be completed by 1992.

66. Although the Spanish language has been reintroduced in the school curriculum, all instruction in the schools of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) is provided in English. The textbooks are obtained from the United Kingdom and opportunities exist for students to further their education in that country, with financing by the United Kingdom Government, which also makes available bursaries for tertiary training.

E. Human rights

67. According to the administering Power, the principles set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights are observed in the Territory. In addition, the administering Power has extended to the Territory the International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, although they are not embodied in any one legislative instrument. The Constitution forbids the enactment of laws that are discriminatory.

F. Status of women

68. According to the administering Power, in conformity with articles 2 and 3 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, there is no discrimination on the basis of sex in the Falkland Islands (Malvinas). There are, however, many more men than women.

Notes

1/ The information contained in the present paper has been derived from official United Nations documentation, from published reports and from information transmitted to the Secretary-General by the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations.

2/ Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS), 26 September 1991.

3/ Geographical Magazine, June 1991; The Financial Times (London), 20 March 1992; and The Economist (London), 25 April 1992.

4/ FBIS, 9 December 1991.

5/ Geographical Magazine, June 1991.

6/ The Australian, 23 September 1991; The New York Times, 24 November 1991; FBIS, 2 December 1991 and 28 February 1992; and Summary of World Broadcasts, 3 and 11 December 1991.

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/AC.109/1122/Corr.1
29 July 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION
WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING
OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL
COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

FALKLAND ISLANDS (MALVINAS)

Working paper prepared by the Secretariat

Corrigendum

1. Paragraph 14, line 4

For vessels read units

2. Paragraph 19, line 11

For £3 million read £31 million

3. Paragraph 20, line 3

The line should read surrounding waters. Primarily through the sale of fishing

4. Paragraph 25

For the existing text substitute

25. Following meetings with Argentina, a joint statement was agreed upon on 28 November 1990, aimed at enhancing fisheries conservation in the South Atlantic. On 26 December 1990, following an agreement reached one month earlier between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom, another fishing zone, known as the Falklands Outer Conservation Zone (FOCZ), was established. The agreement imposed a temporary total ban on commercial fishing for ships of any flag between latitudes 45° and 60° in the FOCZ. The

agreement also provided for the creation of a South Atlantic Fisheries Commission, composed of representatives of both Governments, which is to meet twice a year alternately at Buenos Aires and in London.

5. Paragraph 27, line 2

For the ban in FOCZ read the temporary total ban on commercial fishing

6. Paragraph 34

For the existing text substitute

34. On 22 November 1991, the United Kingdom and Argentina made simultaneous announcements regarding continental shelf legislation. The United Kingdom issued a proclamation providing for the exercise of its rights over the seabed and subsoil of the continental shelf around the Falklands; an ordinance permitting seismic surveying was also passed. On that day, Argentina issued its maritime spaces law, which establishes that from the baselines it fixes, maritime spaces will be measured comprising territorial sea, contiguous zone, exclusive economic zone and continental shelf. The law covers the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands maritime spaces and continental shelf.

7. Paragraph 37, lines 6 and 7

The lines should read

France, both of which would share the area to be surveyed, "which covers the entire continental shelf." The Territory would receive a free copy of the

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UNITED NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/AC.109/1123
17 July 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

ACTIVITIES OF FOREIGN ECONOMIC AND OTHER INTERESTS WHICH ARE IMPEDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES IN ALL TERRITORIES UNDER COLONIAL DOMINATION AND EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE COLONIALISM, APARTHEID AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

Working paper prepared by the Secretariat

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UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS 1/

INTRODUCTION

1. Basic information on political, economic and social conditions in the United States Virgin Islands is contained in the general working paper prepared for the current session of the Special Committee (A/AC.109/1109). Additional information on foreign economic interests operating in the Territory is set out below.

I. ROLE OF FOREIGN CAPITAL

2. The Territory's relations with, and proximity to, the United States of America, together with its tropical climate, have continued to be an attraction to businesses in the United States and elsewhere. In an attempt to broaden its economic base and reduce its dependence on tourism, the territorial Government has embarked on an extensive economic development programme aimed at the establishment of a sound economic and social infrastructure and the stimulation of industrial growth. The Governments of both the United States and the Territory have introduced a range of new tax incentives to United States and foreign private investors which should increase benefits locally.

3. The main areas of foreign investment, primarily from the United States, continued to be tourism and property development, manufacturing and international business. Telecommunications and airline services are owned exclusively by foreign interests.

4. During the period under review, the administering Power reported that an economic development plan incorporating a comprehensive development plan for the Territory was being prepared with the assistance of two federal agencies. The final document would serve to help formulate future development policies of the Territory. The Governor, in his State of the Territory address in January 1992, declared that the issues of industrial growth, diversification and local capital formation were critical to the economic development of the Territory, and he drew attention to the problems faced by St. Croix, the Territory's main industrial centre. He announced the establishment of an Industrial Development Task Force aimed essentially at examining what must be done to attract more industries and hotels to St. Croix. The Task Force would recommend means for the diversification of the economy and for making local capital participation an integral part of the Territory's growth (for further details see A/AC.109/1109, paras. 44-48 and 60).

II. MAJOR DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

A. Tourism and property development

5. Tourism and related services continued to be the main economic activity, accounting for approximately 65 per cent of the gross domestic product. The total number of visitors to the Territory increased by over 8 per cent, from 1.8 million in 1990 to 1.94 million in 1991. Total tourist expenditure increased marginally by 0.5 per cent, from $704.3 million in 1990 to $708.1 million in 1991. 2/ The number of airline passengers declined from 695,400 in 1990 to 682,000 in 1991, reflecting the termination of the services of Eastern Airlines and Pan American Airlines during the period.

6. It will be recalled that, following low occupancy rates and financial difficulties, the largest hotel on St. Croix, the 158-room Carambola Beach Resort, ceased operations in June 1991, resulting in the loss of nearly 200 jobs (A/AC.109/1076, paras. 7-8).

7. It was reported in April 1992 that negotiations were proceeding between a court-appointed receiver and a group headed by a Mississippi-based developer. The President of the St. Croix Hotel and Tourism Association stated that the Association was not being kept informed about the status of the hotel. He welcomed the possibility of the hotel's reopening, which would provide more jobs for the area and, the hotel being a five-star resort, would draw attention to the island of St. Croix as a luxury tourist destination. 3/

8. In November 1991, the Governor of the Territory formally opened the 90-room Emerald Beach Resort, the first major hotel on St. Thomas in 10 years. Two other resorts, the 150-room Grand Palazzo Hotel and the 300-room Sugar Bay Plantation, are scheduled to open on St. Thomas by mid-1992. Press reports indicate that the number of hotel rooms in the Territory increased by 10.6 per cent between February 1991 and February 1992. 4/

Property development

9. Protracted discussions continued during the period under review between the territorial Government, the local community and special interest groups on the one hand, and the United States Government and its agencies on the other, concerning the transfer of Water Island, the fourth largest island in the Territory, to the territorial Government by the end of December 1992. At the same time, discussions were also under way between representative groups of the above parties and the West Indian Company, Ltd. (WICO), a subsidiary of the East Asiatic Company of Denmark, over the ownership and control of submerged and developed land in and around the Charlotte Amalie harbour.

10. In connection with the transfer of Water Island to the Territory, it was reported in June 1992 that a plan was being prepared by the United States Department of the Interior to dispose of the developed land on Water Island. The plan had been requested in April 1992 by Mr. Ron de Lugo, the Territory's

delegate to the United States Congress, and Chairman of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, Subcommittee on Insular and International Affairs, and Senator J. Bennett Johnston, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The plan included the following provisions: (a) appraisal of the land on which private homes were built; (b) recommendations, made in consultation with the territorial Government, for the use of some of the remaining land for private development, as well as for historic sites, critical habitats and other environmentally sensitive areas; and (c) proposals to meet the infrastructural needs of the Territory. The plan was not expected to be presented to the United States Congress before the lease on Water Island expires on 27 December 1992. 5/

11. As regards ownership and development of submerged land in the Charlotte Amalie harbour, the representative of Save Long Bay Coalition, Inc., a local community-action group, again petitioned the United Nations on the matter and appeared before the Special Committee on 9 August 1991 (A/AC.109/PV.1387). In June 1992, the East Asiatic Company, the parent company of WICO, proposed to the territorial Government that negotiations for the purchase of the property concerned should be concluded by the end of the same month. Press reports indicate that the territorial Government had held discussions with the Government Employees Retirement System, a pension fund, for the purchase of the property, reportedly valued at $65 million. 6/ Information on the outcome of the negotiations has not been made available.

B. Other sectors

12. Information on the other main sectors in wnich foreign economic and other interests operate in the Territory (industrial development, international business, and communications and basic facilities) has been outlined in the general working paper prepared for the session (A/AC.109/1109). No further developments have been reported.

Notes

1/ The information contained in this paper has been derived from published reports.

2/ The local currency is the United States dollar (US$).

3/ The Daily News (United States Virgin Islands), 21 April 1992.

4/ Ibid., 13 and 21 April 1992.

5/ Ibid., 13 June 1992.

6/ Ibid., 2 June and 13 July 1992.